

WASHINGTON, DC—On March 31, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H.Res. 282, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The resolution urges the two governments to strengthen their spirit of cooperation and calls for recognition of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty as a model mechanism upon which partner nations may build to overcome barriers to peace. Finally, it encourages continued U.S. efforts to mitigate threats to a lasting Middle East peace.

“I am proud to be able to recognize 30 years of peace between Egypt and Israel,” said Congressman Sestak on Tuesday. “I travelled to both nations many times during my career in the Navy and have watched with a great sense of satisfaction as the two countries have maintained peace for the past three decades. My Naval career taught me that while the military can stop problems, it can never fix them. We need leaders with the political courage to make the difficult decisions and compromises.”

“I will never forget the day, back in 1977, when I was serving as a young officer, I heard about President Anwar al-Sadat’s now-famous visit to the Knesset. It was the first time in history that an Arab leader recognized Israel,” the Congressman continued. “Almost 20 years later, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan followed the example set by the 1979 treaty and signed a similar one between their two nations. The 1979 treaty, as such, has set an invaluable precedent and serves as an example of how peace can ultimately be brought to the region. While there have been setbacks, such as the recent conflict in Gaza, I continue to believe that the Israelis, the Palestinians and the rest of their Arab neighbors will ultimately achieve a peaceful coexistence. I welcome this momentous occasion as another step on the path towards this goal.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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